

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In a handheld audio playback device, a method for playing back an audio data file, the audio data file being encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the method comprising the steps of:

- identifying a selected audio data file in response to a user input;
- identifying a decoder file associated with the selected audio data file, the decoder file comprising a program to control the operations of a digital signal processor;
- transferring the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file to the digital signal processor, wherein the audio data file and the associated decoder file are both stored in a single removable data storage device coupled to the handheld audio playback device;
- determining a unique identification associated with the removable data storage device coupled to the handheld audio playback device, and decrypting the audio data file and the associated decoder file using the unique identification;
- decoding the selected audio data file in accordance with the decrypted decoder file in the digital signal processor, wherein the decoding is performed entirely within the digital signal processor; and
- providing the decoded audio data file to an output device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of

reading a configuration file that associated each one of a plurality of audio data files with a particular one of a plurality of decoder files, and the identifying the decoder file step comprises identifying the decoder file using the configuration file.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the removable data storage device is a solid state data storage device.

4. (Currently Amended) A handheld audio playback apparatus for playing back an audio data file encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the apparatus comprising:

user input means for receiving user commands;

data input means for receiving digital data;

a digital signal processor;

a micro-controller, coupled to the user input means, the data input means, the output means and the digital signal processor, for identifying a user selected audio data file and a decoder file associated with the user selected audio data file, the decoder file comprising a program for controlling the operation of the digital signal processor, [[and]] for transferring the user selected audio data file and the associated decoder file from a single user removable data storage device to the digital signal processor in response to a user selection, determining a unique identification associated with the removable data storage device coupled to the handheld audio playback device, and decrypting the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file using the unique identification, the digital signal processor decoding the user selected audio data file in accordance with the decrypted associated decoder file, wherein the decoding is performed entirely within the digital signal processor.

5. (Previously Presented) The handheld audio playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the removable data storage device comprises a solid state data storage device coupled to the micro-controller.

6. (Currently Amended) A handheld audio playback system, comprising:

user input means for receiving user commands;

data input means for receiving digital data;

a removable data storage device coupled to the data input means;

a digital signal processor; and

a micro-controller, coupled to the user input means, the data input means, and the signal processor, for identifying a selected audio data file and an associated decoder file stored on the data storage device in response to a user input, the micro-controller transferring the selected audio data file and the

associated decoder file to the digital signal processor, determining a unique identification associated with the removable data storage device coupled to the handheld audio playback device, and decrypting the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file using the unique identification, the digital signal processor decoding the selected audio data file in accordance with the decrypted associated decoder file, wherein the decoding is performed entirely within the digital signal processor.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the removable data storage device comprises a solid state data storage device.

8. Cancelled.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the data storage device includes a configuration file for identifying a plurality of stored audio data files and the decoder file associated with each one of the plurality of stored audio data files.